SKATE FATE

INTERVIEW

Jeff Phillips and SIMS 63's

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SKATE FATE

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ON THE FRONT: The Arizonian, Kevin Staab, after holding a long-time reign over the amateur vertical competition circuit, turned pro finally just months back, right in time to snag a worshipable 3rd place standing at the N.S.A Summer Finals. The subsequent interview took place on a somewhat frigid, crappy day in Jan. '85. Photo-Brittain.

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PLEASE DON'T STEAL MAGAZINES

8

KEVIN STAAB

Considering the length of this interview, I'll probably skip over the introduction. I will tell you, however, that Kevin Staab (now pro) can and does do tricks inverts a bit higher than most. And if you ever happen to session somewhere with him someday, you just may be in for the witnessing of a blunt or two thrown in for pleasure. All of the photos accompanying this piece are undoubtedly well-aged (I dug them out of one of Grant's many obscure film files marked: "Zone Summer Nationals '85") so don't expect any one-page bleeds of Staab's current state-of-the-matter moves. What do you think I own? A CAMERA, or something?

What's as good as you've done?

You mean since I've been pro?

Yeah.

Third.

Did you enjoy it?

Oh, thoroughly!

Do you hope to get first?

No, I want to get last from now on. Yeah, I'd like to (get first). It'd be nice.

What makes you feel "lame"?

Answering these questions.

If Thrasher interviewed you, would you feel "lame"?

No, not if they said something good about me, for once.

What do they say about you?

You ever look at the magazine? Just like when I did good at Del Mar, you know, they wrote the only reason I got third is because I stayed on my board.

Why do you think that is?

Because I don't have a punk rock image. I don't have the gnarly style.

What do you believe in?

I believe in skating the way you want to skate and having a good time.

What else?

What else? You mean there's more to it than that?

No, I mean, what else gives you fun?

Nothing! No, skating's cool 'cause you can look forward to it. It's like, you go to school and you don't worry about anything 'cause you're going to go home and skate.

What do you ride? Ramps?

Yeah, anything. Pools. We rode the pipes with Trans World and Thrasher.

Pipes still dry?

I haven't been out there in a while. I don't know what's happening out there.

What about backyard pools?

If they're there, I'll ride

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them. Curbs are great, fall down and smack your butt. Street skate, banks, I'll skate anything.

Do you read books?

I read skateboard magazines occasionally, that's about it.

Describe a day.

I wake up early in the morning.

What time?

Alright, we're trying to be exact here? It depends on if I have to go to school. I usually get up in the morning and take a long shower, get out of the shower, I go downstairs and I eat. Come back upstairs and mess up my hair for awhile until it's time to go to school. I drive to school, I go to class and don't talk to anybody. I just laugh at the teachers. I walk around school and see how many people give me funny looks.

Why? Why do they do that?

'Cause I don't look like all nice pressed and look like everybody else going to school.

Do you go to a private school?

No, public, Scottsdale Community College.

What kinds of grades can we expect from you?

I don't know. It depends on what class it's in. I say in a normal, average hard class I could hopefully pull off a "C". I don't usually get bad grades. Just on accident sometimes.

Do you go to dances?

No way! Never went to a dance in my life!

BP-No! You were telling us you were dancing with a girl the other night!

Oh, Devil House occasionally! Not anymore, though. That place is bad. It's like some big dance club. It's like a big waste of time. Those places are stupid.

Is Powell going to give you a plank, or what?

I'll get a gnarly reputation that will sell boards, or win all the contests or something.

Name some tricks that are fun.

Frontside grinds. Just any thing you can push yourself on and hope you make it.

What do you think of your sister?

She supports skateboard stuff, so she's cool. She wears my shirts to school and stuff.

Do you collect stickers?

Yes.

Favorites?

My favorites? All the old ones. My old ones.

Who do you like to session with?

This guy named Nick Cacores, 'cause he cracks me up all the times. He's really funny. No matter what you're doing, he's just having a good time.

What was the funnest ramp you've ridden?

The best ramp I've ridden is John Tippeconich's.

Describe it.

It's 16 ft. wide, 10 ft. high, 1 ft. of vert, 2 ft. decks, and 1' ft. of flat bottom.

Have you ever ridden a "big transition" ramp?

Yeah, lance's.

What did you think of that?

I thought it was fun, but I'm used to more vertical, so it was hard for me to ride at first.

What about park pools?

I liked Whittier's keyhole and I liked Orins slot, too, I liked the little brown pools there. Lakewood's pool. Colton.

Name some food you like.

Cereal. I like Wheaties, Grape Nuts, and Honey Smacks mixed together, 'cause you have a little variety of everything. Generic salads. Pizza's good.

Name a good backyard pool.

Dead Cat pool in Arizona. The face wall was like a skate park, you could do anything in it. It's got dirt in it now. People that tried to dig it out, I don't know if they will get it out, I think they got like most of the shallow end dug out.

What do you think of cops?

I don't like policemen any more because they gave me a ticket on my way home.

Do they ever give you trouble for skating?

Oh, yeah. I got in trouble the other night, it was kind of fun, though, we went to this building that looks like Gator's board. It's got all these spikes on it. We were just having a good time, climbing the building, right? And all of the sudden, these security guys told us to get off the building. Oh, of course we're not going to do that! We started running away from them and the guy called on the walkie talkie and you know, the security guards started multiplying and we didn't know the building at all, so we got caught in the middle of everything and I turned one corner and here comes a security guard with a flashlight, go around the next corner, so then we started running and they caught us and they took us in. And they told us that we were going to jail, and that we were real bad kids. And they took down all our names, except I gave them my new name, which is "Mike Walker" and they called everyone's parents, mine weren't home, so I got to go home with a friend, so I got away clean. It was a good night. I had fun. There's no better feeling than being chased. That's got to be the best feeling. So much fun. My mom got bummed at me. I don't know why.

Have you ever been arrested?

I've been read my rights before. I started laughing. We were under this parking garage once, skating, this cop came out that looked like John Wayne, think he thought he was, too. He pulled out his gun and started telling us junk, "you guys either leave right now or give me your skateboards," you know? Typical average Joe cop. So, he started reading us our rights. I started laughing. I had to turn around so I would not get in trouble. My friend talked his way out of it, so we got to leave.

Name some injuries you've had.

Well, my board attacks me sometimes. My board got me in the foot last night. I wasn't happy with it.

You ever broke anything?

Skiing.

Not skating though?

No. I twisted my ankle at Litchfield trying to learn very mutes. That was right before I went to the Nebraska contest, but, I didn't care if it hurt 'cause I got to go there (Neb.) for free, and I wanted to go!

What's your attitude when you go into a contest?

To have fun and do my best. It changed when I turned pro. It's just like... the competition is, it's like everybody is the best. So, if I do good in a contest, I come out real happy.. But, if I don't do good, I try not to let it bum me out. Alot of the time I don't do what the judges are looking for anyway.

What's your hardest trick that you have trouble on?

Most things I do right now I don't have that much trouble with. Ollie tricks where you spin the board around are kind of hard to get wired every place you go because you don't grab, of course you KNOW that already, but...

Which tricks would you like to pick up on?

McTwist. I'd like to learn at least one or two varial things, I did 'em before but I stopped doing them. It's time to re-learn them. And, just other things I plan on working on that I don't want to talk about right now because I don't know if I'll do it, and I don't want to see anyone else do it first.

Did you invent fakie ollies in the kidney at Del Mar?

Yeah, a long time ago.

In the shallow end?

Yeah, on accident, 'cause I was trying to learn how to do a fakie tail stall, and I would go up and I wouldn't get the tail down quick enough and the wheels started popping off the coping. Brian Schroeder was there, he told me to keep doing that, and then like, Brad Bowden saw me do it and I couldn't ride the keyhole then, and all of a

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sudden, I'd see him a couple of days later just doing it red in there and then I started learning how to ride the keyhole and I didn't learn it till like a long time after that. I'm not saying I made the trick up totally, but I got it from nobody else and it seemed like no one else had seen it at like the Del Mar area.

BR-What kind of hip pads do you use?

As many as I can find! No, (laughs) S.I.O. Skate inside out.

Name some people you hate.

I don't hate anybody. I don't dis-like anybody.

How long have you been skating?

I'm sure, 10 years.

Didn't you used to live in Del Mar?

Exactly. Del Mar-Rancho Santa Fe, actually Solana Beach.

Until when?

Until 5 years ago when I moved to Arizona; land of the sun.

Were you there (Del Mar) when the park first opened?

Yeah, and my mom wouldn't sign the waiver so I could go skate. I tried to get people to forge it for me. I was really mad at my mom. I did n't get to skate the park until a couple of months after it opened. I remember I was there before they finished the halfpipe and Tom Inouye hopped the fence and skated the halfpipe and I thought he was so cool!

Do you like shopping malls?

Shopping malls are for shoppy people.

Do you like downtowns?

I like downtown Phoenix 'cause you can skate around and see all the bums and stuff and it's fun.

Did you ever go out in the desert and look for arrow heads?

No, not lately, to tell you the truth!

Do you like anything besides skating?

I like miniature golf.

Goony golf?

Yeah, it's pretty fun.

Do you play cards?

No. Not unless I have to.

Do you read magazines? Or do you just look at the pictures?

It depends on which magazines I'm reading. No, I won't mention which two magazines that I read AND I look at the pictures.

What equipment are you using?

Sixtracks with NO COPPERS, Magnesium and Ultralights. My own Chickenleg (9½X9½X29½) shape and Rat Bones that are real slow, I need some new ones.

Are they going to produce your shape?

If I get an image or something and people want to have my board.

Image? Why do you need an image?

Because that sells boards and that's what Stacy Perelta says I need because my name's not big enough to sell boards. I don't really know what I need. He (Stacy) said I need something that sells boards and that the only person that didn't need to win contests to sell boards was Jay Smith. So, I'll start spiking up my hair! (laughs)

Do you ever get sick?

Sometimes. Once I had to stay home from school for 3 days.

Why?

BECAUSE I WAS SICK! I don't know. Before I drove, which was not too long ago, we used to street skate down to this place and eat every night. And we were street skating home at like 1 or 2 in the morning and I got real cold so I couldn't go to school for the next couple of days. And I was really depressed.

Do you ever get sick of things?

No! Life's beautiful!

What makes it so good?

ME EARLY KEVIN STAAB PULLS OLLIE FRONTSIDE AT OFF HARRIS FINALS '82.

Just because it's here and if you start thinking about all these weird things like that we are here on this planet and how did we get here, and why are things called names? And once everything was covered with water.

Does that "bum" you?

No, it's neat! Everyone has hair and stuff.

Is life as a pro skater worth it?

It's just the same as amateur. It's just another status they give you. It's still the same. It doesn't change me. I feel like the same person. Instead of watching the pros, I get to skate with them.

What kinds of music do you like?

I like the Cure, Flock of Seagulls, CBS, the Damned, the Descendents, the Addicts, I like alot of old punk stuff like 999 and the Buzzcocks, Generation X. I like some Depeche Mode. I'm not dedicated to one certain thing, you know, it's like, I don't feel like I have to keep up a punk rock image, and I don't feel like I have to have some nice look, I just do whatever I want to do.

What kind of toothpaste are you using?

Right now, I'm using Aquafresh. It's pretty good, but like, I dropped my cap down the drain the other day and I was getting really bummed because every time I squeezed the tube in the morning, dry toothpaste came out. But what happened is, see, I went in my drawer and I found wax for my teeth when I used to have braces, and I took it out and I made my own cap! It's good. I have my braces off and I don't wear out as many toothbrushes. But now I have these things (removing a pair of retainers) but I took them out of my mouth so I could talk right now.

Do you drink alcohol?

No, alcohol's not good for you and smoking's bad for your lungs, Pills are bad for you, too. I don't even take vitamins anymore.

What school did you go to?

Ceceuro High School.

Have you heard of Cortez?

I have heard of Cortez.

Camelback?

Camelback! Yes, I have heard of Camelback! I almost had to

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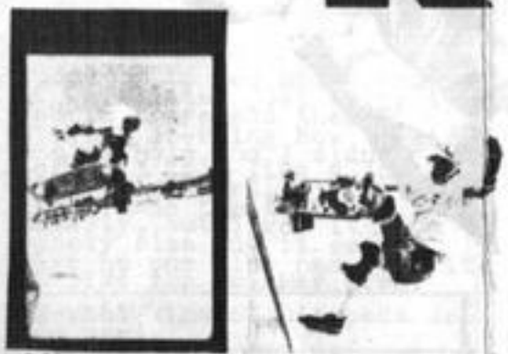

LEFT: KEVAN FERRIS OVER THE HIP AT DEL MAR'S HALFPIPE. RIGHT: "K" AT HOUSE '83. JGB.

go to a prison school when I first moved there (Ariz.) but I don't think I passed the test to get in. I had to go on Saturdays and I was really mad. My parents got me into this public school. It turned out pretty cool. There were skaters there I met. I got to go to school with the lead singer of JFA. Beautiful guy. I go to school with him now, too.

You do?!!!

Yes, he goes to college. Brian Brennon is a real smart guy. Believe it or not, what you may think of him, the guy is a brain. He's real smart. He's kind of weird but he's cool. He's never out to hurt anybody. I'm pretty good friends with him. We go skate together sometimes.

He hates TWS.

Yeah, he doesn't like Powell either, but that's okay. The drummer's a rad bank skater too. I've known Brian and Bam Bam for a good 4 or 5 years. Before they were in the band. Bam Bam was a hippie and used to skate the park all the time. Real cool guy.

Do you think theres going to be any more variations coming out on tricks?

Yeah, now, I think everything's going to happen. Anything you think of is probably going to be done, within reason.

Like ollie footplants and stuff?

Yeah, nothing's really going to surprise me anymore.

Mail Grab

Garry,

BREED HATE. Wear "X" and string 'em up. My "X" is majorly a part of my wardrobe daily. New Skate Hate is, you know, is equals Coke. It's getting much colder and much whiter. It's causing me to hate much more, and more things piss me off, like life itself. Buddy's ramp is almost done, Blender's Thrasher interview is it. Skated banks last mid-evening, Dirt-Ball and Undercover banks down the street from dirtball. Way fun, I did a bert and boneless one for you, but not as good as yours. L.O. white and cold. All ramps-frozen. Buddy-barn ramp 1. w/o plys and coping. 2. w/o money.

Dribble came over the other night at 6:20 early, whatta butthole. I was sleeping.

Hate always,
Bill D.
Fairborn, Ohio

SKATE SLANG

ROSCOE-Right, as in: "Gang a Roscoe at the next light"
LOUIE-Left.
THERAPY-The repitition of a certain trick over and over and over in one ride in order to get the trick "better" or higher, as in: "I'm going to go have therapy on backside airs."
PLAIN TRUTH-The exact physics method of pulling off a trick, as in: "I must learn the plain truth on backside ollies."

WINFORD THOMAS

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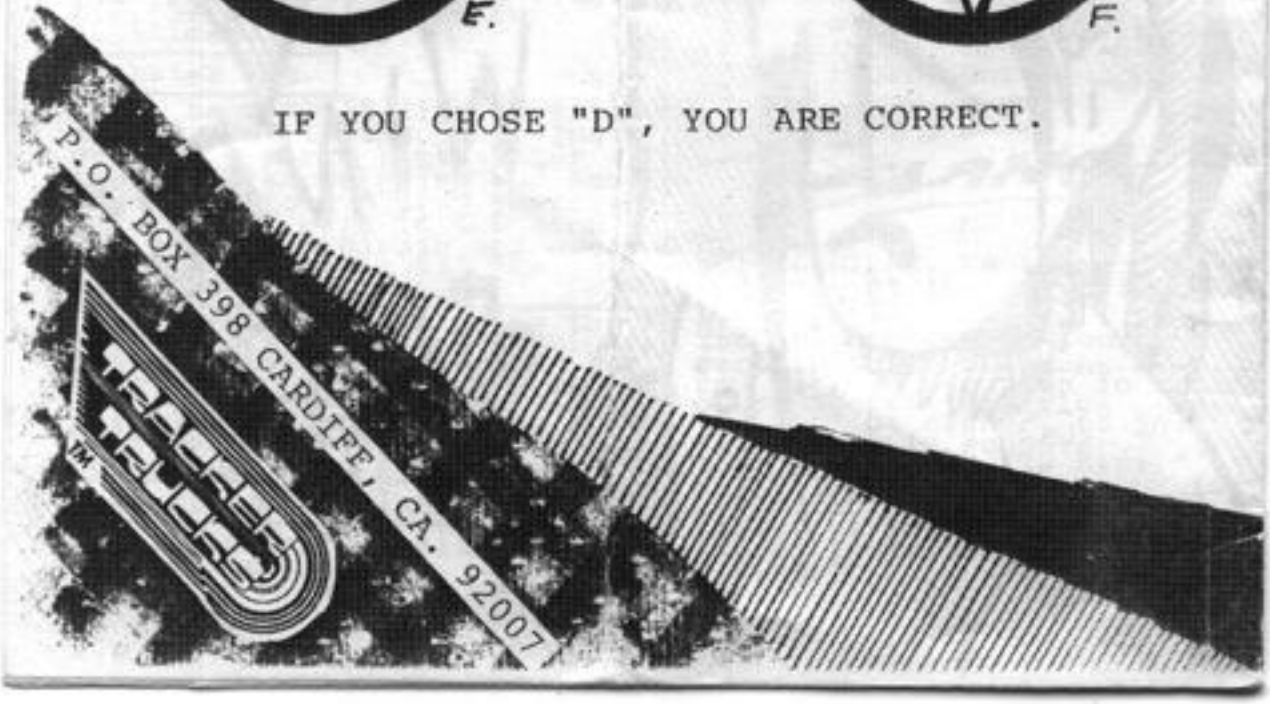
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